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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION**

In re Application of:  
**KURT A. KEIL**

Serial No.: 09/892,359  
Filed: June 28, 2001

Title: **STRUCTURAL TUBING MEMBERS  
WITH FLARED OUT END SEGMENTS  
FOR CONJOINING**

Group Art Unit No.: 3637

Supervisory Examiner: Lanna Mai

Phone No.: (703) 306-9136  
(903) 872-9306

Examiner: Phi Dieu Tran A

Patent & Trademark Office Comissioner  
ATTN: Group 3627  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**GROUP 3600**

**REPLY BRIEF RESPONDING TIMELY TO OFFICE ACTION OF 5/20/2004**

Sirs:

This communication is in response to the belated First Office Action on the merits, mailed May 20, 2004, with an extendable shortened statutory period currently set to expire August 20, 2004.

**PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

Original claims 1 to 26 remain under active consideration with only original claims 21 and 24 being amended herewith. They both recite the preferred material as being sheet steel. Also, independent channel member claims 21-26 are rejected for obviousness over a single citation, which will be addressed below.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

At page 1, line 11, emend to recite ≡U.S. Patent No. 6,279,288, granted August 28, 2001.≡

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